

HONORING THE CREW OF USS
"LAGARTO"

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to 86 brave men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and, for freedom—the crew of the submarine USS *Lagarto*—as well as their loved ones—their wives and sweethearts, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers—who have all kept them in their hearts for more than 60 years.

The story of the *Lagarto* represents the sacrifices made by sailors in the "Silent Service," the most dangerous of all the missions, as submariners suffered the highest percentage of combat deaths of any service in any branch of the armed forces during World War II.

The *Lagarto*, built in the shipyards of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, had a short but distinguished career. The submarine joined the assault on Imperial Japan in early 1945, and was credited with sinking a Japanese submarine and other enemy vessels.

However, on May 3, 1945, the *Lagarto* and its sister submarine, the USS *Baya*, were coordinating an attack on a Japanese convoy off the coast of Thailand. The Japanese escort minelayer *Hatsutaka* was able to drive off the *Baya* in the early hours of May 4. But the *Lagarto* was never heard from again. Evidence pointed to a depth charge from the *Hatsutaka* that may have sunk the *Lagarto*, and the submarine was presumed lost with all hands on board.

For the next 60 years, many of the loved ones of the *Lagarto* crew continued to wonder where their final resting place might be. Then, in the Spring of 2005, a fishing boat snagged a large object off the Thai coast. Eventually, renowned wreck diver Jamie McLeod investigated and helped confirm that the wreckage in about 180 feet of water was the *Lagarto*.

On Saturday, May 6, 2006, the crew of the *Lagarto* was honored by the Navy during a special annual USS *Lagarto* Remembrance Day Memorial Ceremony at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc. This event was attended by more than 150 family members of the crew of the *Lagarto*.

As Nancy Mabin Kenney, who was a toddler when her father, Seaman 1st Class William T. Mabin, was lost on the *Lagarto*, said: "This ceremony will be our way of saying goodbye that we never had."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me honoring the brave men of USS *Lagarto* and to express our sincere gratitude to their families and friends upon the ultimate sacrifice these sailors gave for our great nation.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of the Spratt budget substitute and in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 376, the Republican budget.

Our son, daughters, and neighbors are bravely fighting wars abroad. Unfortunately, when they return home, they will find a country that has lost its way. We pay lip service to shared sacrifice, but while they risk their lives for us, Republicans in Congress are providing tax cuts for the richest 1 percent of Americans, slashing programs for working-class families and turning their backs on the middle class. The budget before us today continues these misguided policies. It does not represent the priorities of the American people, nor does it respect the values our soldiers are fighting to protect.

For too long, Republicans have racked up charges on the national credit card, while passing the bill on to future generations. Now is our chance to set this country on the proper course to ensure America's economic success and protect our grandchildren from having to pay for today's irresponsible decisions.

There is a better way. Despite the horrible fiscal outlook facing our Nation due to Republican policies, the Spratt substitute still manages to balance the budget in 6 years, cut taxes for the middle class, and provide realistic funding for education, health care, and veterans programs, all of which are short-changed by the Republicans.

The Spratt substitute has a better bottom line than the Republican budget every year. Fiscal responsibility today will lead to lower deficits, smaller interest payments, and less national debt in the future. Most significantly, after the budget is balanced, we can finally begin to pay off the trillions of dollars in debt that have accumulated since President Bush took office.

Unfortunately, the budget proposed by House Republicans does nothing to improve the quality of life in America. It would add more than \$350 billion to the national debt next year alone. Under Republican stewardship, the five years between fiscal year 2003 and 2007 will provide us with the five largest deficits in American history. This is not a legacy worth continuing. We cannot afford to borrow additional money to continue paying for failed economic policies.

Not only does the Spratt substitute match the President's request for defense spending, but it also includes additional needed funds for homeland security programs, including port security. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am concerned that the Republican budget closely mirrors the President's, which proposes to eliminate several programs important to the safety of all Americans. Programs on the chopping block include the COPS Interoperability Grant Program, the SAFER Program for firefighting equipment, the Metropolitan Medical Response System, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, and Justice Assistance Grants. In 2005, these programs provided more than \$13 million in grants to help Rhode Island's first responders keep my constituents safe. Since September 11, we have asked our police and

firefighters to do so much more, but this budget fails to provide the resources they so badly need.

In addition, the budget would freeze or cut all non-homeland security discretionary spending. If the Republicans have their way, 5 years from now, education and health programs will receive even less than they do today. Cuts to social programs would place a larger burden on the working class at a time when they can least afford it.

Even with all of these cuts, the Republicans still have no plan to balance the budget. Instead, they want to give away the savings to the wealthy by making permanent tax cuts on investment income. As a recent New York Times article indicated, "Americans with annual incomes of \$1 million or more, about one-tenth of 1 percent of all taxpayers, reaped 43 percent of all the savings on investment taxes in 2003." At the same time, those earning less than \$50,000 saved an average of only \$10 on the same capital gains and dividend tax cuts. The wealthiest Americans are doing fine on their own, and we should not be borrowing money to give them more special favors.

Deficit spending has stymied job growth and is plaguing our economy. No Rhode Islander would write a check without sufficient funds to cover it. Neither should the government. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Spratt budget substitute and opposing the underlying Republican plan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to circumstances beyond my control, I missed Roll Call Vote 153 on Wednesday, May 17, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted "aye." This was a vote to order the previous question on H. Res. 817, a rule providing for further consideration of the budget resolution.

THE AMBASSADORS' REVIEW OF
THE COUNCIL OF AMERICAN AM-
BASSADORS

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following statement by Joseph Verner Reed, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

VIEWPOINTS: UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan will step down from his position as Secretary-General when his second five-year term ends on December 31.

The search for a successor to Secretary-General Annan promises to create differences within the U.N. Security Council. Russia and China back the customary procedure of rotating the post among the world's regions, while the U.S. and Britain are questioning the need to do so.

Since the United Nations was established in October 1945, the post of Secretary-General has been held by Trygve Lie of Norway